

## Message Text

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PGOV, XF, XD, XI

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO ARMS SALES

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARY REPORT IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 1 AND SEPTEMBER 10 THE ADMINISTRATION SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS PURSUANT TO SECTION 36 (B) OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT NOTIFICATIONS OF 43 ARMS SALES TRANSACTIONS TO 14 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 6.1 BILLION. ALTHOUGH ONLY 7 OF THE 14 PURCHASING COUNTRIES WERE IN THE NEA AREA, THE NEA COUNTRIES ACCOUNTED FOR 33 OF THE TRANSACTIONS AND APPROXIMATELY DOLS 5.6 BILLION (90 PERCENT) OF THE TOTAL PACKAGE.

3. THIS SIZEABLE MILITARY SALES PACKAGE HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE CRITICAL COMMENT IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS AND IN THE MEDIA. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE CRITICISM CENTERS  
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ON THE MASSIVE SIZE OF THE PACKAGE AND OVERALL U.S. ARMS

SALES POLICY, EFFECTIVE CONCERN TO DATE SEEMS MORE FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC SENSITIVE TRANSACTIONS, PARTICULARLY THE MISSILE SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE F-16 SALE TO IRAN. TO DATE, SENATOR NELSON, A FATHER OF ARMS CONTROL LEGISLATION, HAS INTRODUCED SEPARATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS OBJECTING TO EACH OF THE 43 PROPOSED SALES TRANSACTIONS, EXPLAINING THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT OR WISH TO SEE ALL OF THEM STOPPED BUT RATHER WANTS THEM SUBJECTED TO CLOSE CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY. SENATORS PROXMIRE AND DURKIN HAVE INTRODUCED 24 CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED SALES TO IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, PAKISTAN, SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINE ON GROUNDS SIMILAR TO NELSON'S. IN THE HOUSE TO DATE, REPRESENTATIVE HARRINGTON HAS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED DOLS 4.5 BILLION IN SALES TO IRAN AND REPRESENTATIVE ROSENTHAL AND 14 OTHERS HAVE INTRODUCED 3 RESOLUTIONS OPPOSING PROPOSED MAVERICK AND SIDEWINDER MISSILE SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA.

4. TO CONSIDER THESE RESOLUTIONS, THE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SFRC HELD A LENGTHY PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 16 ON THE F-16 SALE TO IRAN AT WHICH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TESTIFIED. THE SFRC SUBCOMMITTEE HAS ALSO SCHEDULED A HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 21 ON THE MAVERICK SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA, AT WHICH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON WILL TESTIFY AND A FINAL WRAP-UP SESSION WITH PUBLIC WITNESSES ON SEPTEMBER 24. IN THE HOUSE, THE FASCELL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HIR SCHEDULED A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 21 ON THE ENTIRE SALES PACKAGE, AT WHICH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB WILL TESTIFY AND A MARK-UP SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 23. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT EXPECT THE CONGRESS TO ENACT A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DISAPPROVING ANY OF THESE SALES WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF MAVERICKS FOR SAUDI ARABIA, IT WILL BE EXAMINING AND QUESTIONING THEM IN SOME DETAIL AND ATTRACTING CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THEM.

ROBINSON

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